

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Responsive to the Office Action, Applicant submits the following amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) A keyless locking device comprising:

a cylindrical plunger having a near end and a distal end and a key thereon a distance from the near end and at a location about the circumference of the plunger;

a cylindrical sleeve for releasably and rotatably receiving the plunger, having an open top portion, a bottom portion and a circumferential lip fixedly mounted within the sleeve separating the top and bottom portions, the lip having a bottom surface;

a keyway axially disposed within the sleeve passing through the top portion of the sleeve and through the lip, the key slidably mating with the keyway;

at least one indicium circumferentially disposed about one of the sleeve or the near end of the plunger, including one known indicium being substantially axially aligned with the location of the keyway if on the sleeve or substantially axially aligned with the location of the key if on the plunger;

wherein the distance between the key and near end of the plunger is sufficient to permit the key to extend into the bottom portion below the lip and maintain the near end of the plunger outside the sleeve;

a spring member within the bottom portion that is compressed when in contact with the distal end of the plunger, biasing the plunger upward;

whereby to lock the device the plunger is inserted into the sleeve, the key sliding along the keyway through the lip into the bottom portion, the distal end compressing the spring member, and then the sleeve and plunger are rotated with respect to each other and released, the spring biasing the plunger upward and locking the key onto the bottom surface of the lip;

whereby to unlock the device the sleeve and plunger are pressed together and rotated with respect to each other until the one known indicium is aligned, respectively, with the key or keyway, and then the plunger is removed from the sleeve, the key sliding along the keyway through the lip and into the top portion for removal.

2. (currently amended) A keyless locking device comprising:

a cylindrical plunger having a near end and a distal end and a key thereon a distance from the near end and at a location about the circumference of the plunger;

indicia circumferentially disposed about the near end of the plunger, including ~~[[a]]~~ one known indicium being substantially axially aligned with the location of the key;

a cylindrical sleeve for releasably and rotatably receiving the plunger, having an open top portion, a bottom portion and a circumferential lip fixedly mounted within the sleeve separating the top and bottom portions, the lip having a bottom surface;

a keyway axially disposed within the sleeve passing through the top portion of the sleeve and through the lip, the key slidably mating with the keyway when the plunger is inserted into the sleeve;

wherein the distance between the key and near end of the plunger is sufficient to permit the key to extend into the bottom portion below the lip and maintain the near end of the plunger outside the sleeve;

a spring member within the bottom portion that is compressed when in contact with the distal end of the plunger, biasing the plunger upward;

whereby to lock the device the plunger is inserted into the sleeve, the key sliding along the keyway through the lip into the bottom portion, the distal end compressing the spring, and then the plunger is rotated and released, the spring biasing the plunger upward and locking the key onto the bottom surface of the lip;

whereby to unlock the device the plunger is pushed into the sleeve and rotated until the one known indicium is aligned with the keyway, and the plunger is then removed, the key sliding along the keyway through the lip and into the top portion for removal.

3. (currently amended) A keyless locking device comprising:

a cylindrical plunger having a near end and a distal end and a key thereon a distance from the near end and at a location about the circumference of the plunger;

a cylindrical sleeve for releasably and rotatably receiving the plunger, having an open top portion, a bottom portion and a circumferential lip fixedly mounted within the sleeve separating the top and bottom portions, the lip having a bottom surface;

a keyway axially disposed within the sleeve passing through the top portion of the sleeve and through the lip, the key slidably mating with the keyway when the sleeve is placed on the plunger;

indicia circumferentially disposed about the sleeve, including ^{[[a]]} one known indicium being substantially axially aligned with the location of the keyway;

wherein the distance between the key and near end of the plunger is sufficient to permit the key to extend into the bottom portion below the lip and maintain the near end of the plunger outside the sleeve;

a spring means within the bottom portion that is compressed when in contact with the distal end of the plunger, biasing the plunger upward;

whereby to lock the device the sleeve is placed on the plunger, the key sliding along the keyway through the lip into the bottom portion, the distal end compressing the spring member, and then the sleeve is rotated and released, the spring member biasing the plunger upward and locking the key onto the lower surface of the lip;

whereby to unlock the device the sleeve is pushed onto the plunger and rotated until the one known indicium is aligned with the key, and then the sleeve is removed, the key sliding along the keyway through the lip and into the top portion for removal.

4. (original) The locking device of Claim 1, wherein the key is at the distal end of the plunger.

5. (original) The locking device of Claim 1, wherein the bottom portion is closed by a cap.

6. (original) The locking device of Claim 1, wherein the bottom portion is closed by a cap and the spring member is in contact therewith.

7. (original) The locking device of Claim 5, wherein the cap is removably mounted to the bottom portion.

8. (original) The locking device of Claim 5, wherein the cap has an attachment means for rotatably attaching the sleeve of the locking device to an article that requires locking.

9. (original) The locking device of Claim 8, wherein the near end of the plunger has an attachment means for rotatably attaching the plunger of the locking device to an article that requires locking.

[[9.]] 10. (currently amended) The locking device of Claim 1, wherein the near end of the plunger has an attachment means for rotatably attaching the plunger of the locking device to an article that requires locking.

[[10.]] 11.(currently amended) The locking device of claim 1, wherein the lower surface of the lip has a plurality of key grooves therein that substantially mate with the key when the plunger is biased upward.

[[11.]] 12. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 2, wherein the lower surface of the lip has a plurality of key grooves therein that substantially mate with the key when the plunger is biased upward.

[[12.]] 13. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 3, wherein the lower surface of the lip has a plurality of key grooves therein that substantially mate with the key when the plunger is biased upward.